



NOAA
FISHERIES

2015 ICCAT Advisory Committee Species Working Group Recommendations to NMFS

**ICCAT Advisory Committee
March 2016**

2015 Bluefin Tuna Recommendations

The United States should:

- Discourage efforts by CPCs to set autonomous quotas
- Promote development of harvest strategies by proposing management objectives and clear target and limit reference points
 - Rec. 15-07 adopted
- Hold Contracting Parties accountable to provide information on WBFT cooperative research activities
- Advance the eBCD program and ensure full implementation in early 2016
 - Rec. 15-10 adopted
- Ensure adequate funding in IAC budget to support U.S. Commissioner and IAC member participation at ICCAT Intersessional meetings



2015 North Atlantic Swordfish Recommendations

The United States should:

- Ensure retention and full utilization of the U.S. swordfish quota
- Maintain Canadian port access for U.S. fishing vessels
- Require detailed plans from CPCs intending to develop domestic swordfish fisheries before temporary quota transfers
- Encourage reporting of juveniles and dead discards in all CPC swordfish fisheries

2015 North Atlantic Swordfish Recommendations

Recommendation by IAC Species Working Group:

- Encourage reporting of juveniles and dead discards in all CPC swordfish fisheries

Actions:

- Continue to work with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, in particular new Uniformed Agents
- Development of mobile app for catch reporting underway; scheduled for Summer 2016 rollout
- Pursuing education/outreach via sportfishing publications and fishing organization newsletters about reporting requirements
 - Attended Bass Pro Seminars to discuss HMS regulations
 - Recreational reporting and handling & release inserts provided to these magazines: Marlin, Sport Fishing, and Salt Water Sportsman

2015 BAYS Tunas Recommendations

The United States should:

- In light of the upcoming bigeye tuna stock assessment, the Working Group urges the SCRS to evaluate the time-area closure in the Gulf of Guinea and the potential for a temporal or spatial expansion
- In light of recent increases of skipjack catches, continue to support efforts to keep the issue of fishing capacity control in the forefront
- Rec. 15-01 adopted



2015 Shark Recommendations

The United States should:

- Engage in 2015 COC review of reports submitted by CPCs under Rec 12-05
- Continue to propose & get co-sponsors for a fins naturally-attached measure
- Work with the EU in efforts to rebuild and conserve porbeagle populations
 - Rec. 15-06 adopted
- Work with the EU to promote shortfin mako proposal that is consistent with scientific advice (prevents an increase in catch) while maintaining flexibility for small harvester nations
- Pursue amendments to the Convention that expand the scope to explicitly allow for the management of sharks (whether taken in targeted fisheries or indirectly)



2015 Billfish Recommendations

The United States should:

- Seek a three-year rollover of the existing measure (Rec. 12-04)
 - Rec. 15-05 adopted
- Review and consider new SCRS advice from the 2014 billfish species group meeting regarding efficacy of time/area closures to reduce mortality
- Ensure that CPCs are reporting their methodology for reporting live and dead discards of billfish per Recommendation 12-04 and refer failure to report to the COC
- Seek support for expanded observer coverage for fleets interacting with billfish, including the use of alternative monitoring techniques such as video monitoring

